REMARKS

I.   The Examiner's Rejections

In the Office Action mailed July 13, 2004, the examiner objected to claims 1-2, 4, 6, and 14 on the basis of various informalities. In particular, in claim 1, line 11 and claim 4, the examiner objected that "<u>a</u> total wager amount" should be corrected to "<u>the</u> total wager amount". In claim 2, line 2, the examiner objected that "prize <u>award</u> event" should be corrected to "prize event". In claim 6, lines 2 and 3, the examiner objected that "<u>a</u> wager" should be corrected to "<u>the</u> wager". In claim 14, limitation (D), the examiner objected that "<u>wagering</u> amount" should be corrected to "<u>total wager</u> amount".

The examiner also rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the examiner objected that "said prizes" in claim 1, line 1 of limitation (F), and line 2 of limitation (H) were ambiguous because it was not clear if the "prizes" implies the "one or more prizes" in claim 1, line 5, or the "prize" in claim 1, line 8. The examiner also objected that "<u>devices</u> linked to <u>a prize</u>" in claim 1, line 1 of limitation (G) lacked antecedent basis. The examiner also objected that the expression "and/or" in claim 3, line 6 was ambiguous. The examiner also objected that "a prize" in claim 4, line 2 of limitations (B) and (C) and in claim 6, line 3 lacked antecedent basis. The examiner also rejected claims 2 and 5 as being dependent on the rejected base claim 1.

Finally, the examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Pease et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,076) in view of Baerlocher et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,788,573).

The examiner asserts that, as per claim 1, Pease discloses a progressive gaming system comprising a central system 106 (Fig. 1) to control the progressive gaming system; a prize including a total wager amount and a minimum prize

value to the awarded to participants (col. 5, lines 16-24; and col. 4, lines 66-67); a device for accepting a wager (col. 3, lines 16-20; col. 4, lines 40-49 and 66-67); wherein the central system links the device to the prize based on the total wager amount of each entity and enables the device to participate for winning the prize (col. 4, lines 40-43 and 66-67; and col. 5, lines 1-24); and wherein the central system acquires transactions resulting from participation for the prize to control prize of events (col. 7, lines 3-52). The examiner acknowledges that Pease does not explicitly disclose that the device includes a payline and that the odds are adapted to the determination of the total wager amount. The examiner asserts, however, that Pease discloses that the device can be used for a plurality of games of chance such as slot machines, poker machines, etc. (col. 3, lines 20-22). The examiner further asserts that Baerlocher discloses a slot machine including pay lines in which the odds are adapted to the determination of the total wager amount (Fig. 2, col. 4, lines 14-18 and 46-49). The examiner therefore asserts that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the reel slot machine of Baerlocher to the gaming system of Pease in order to allow a player to play a reel fortune game.

As per claim 2, the examiner asserts that Pease discloses summing all the wagers to make a prize event (col. 4, lines 66-67; and col. 5, line 1).

As per claims 3-4, the examiner references the discussion regarding claim 1 and further asserts that Pease discloses accepting wagers (col. 3, lines 64-67). The examiner further asserts that enabling bonus play and executing game programs via the internet would have been well known to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

As per claim 5-6, the examiner asserts that Pease discloses multiplying the wager with the odd of winning (col. 5, line 4-9) and that multiplying an exchange rate with the currency to convert foreign currency to a specific type of currency would have been well known.

As per claim 7, the examiner references the discussion regarding claim 1 and further asserts that "Pease discloses linking the prize to the device if the prize's total wager amount is equal to the device's total wager [amount]" (col. 7, lines 3-52).

As per claims 8-16, the examiner references the discussion regarding claim 2 and 5-7 above.

II.   Response to Examiner's Rejections

A.   Informalities and 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 6 and 8-15 as set forth above to address the examiner's objections based on informalities and the rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The examiner will note that a handful of other informalities and potential 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues have been addressed as well.

In particular, in claim 1, limitation (B), "participants" was changed to "at least one participant". In claim 1, limitation (C), "a total wager amount and" was deleted. In claim 1, limitation (F), "each independent entity's" was changed to "said". In claim 3, "one of the following" and "at least one of the following" were added as set forth above. In claims 8-10, "a" was changed to "the" as set forth above. In claims 11 and 14, "wherein the prize is awarded upon the occurrence of a prize award event" was added as set forth above to provide an antecedent basis the "prize award event" of claims 12 and 15. In claims 12 and 15, "each prize" was changed to "each said prize" as set forth above.

All amendments except one are to correct the form of the claims. The one exception is the deletion of "a total wager amount and" from claim 1, limitation (C). That limitation was deleted because the phrase " . . . prizes comprising at least a total wager amount . . . " was, at best, awkward. A progressive prize is not a total wager amount. Rather, a total wager amount for a progressive prize

"is the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event. . ."

Application, p. 14. "Total wager amount" still appears as a limitation in claim 1

in elements (E) and (F). Therefore, it is submitted that the scope of claim 1 is not

changed by the amendments.

B.   35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejections.

The examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being

unpatentable over Pease in view of Baerlocher. Applicant respectfully traverses

the Office's rejection for the reasons stated below.

1.   Review of Certain Aspects of the Invention

The pending claims involve a progressive gaming system and methods

that link at least one progressive prize to at least one device adapted to accept a

wager if there is substantial equivalence of the total wager amount for the prize

and the device. The definitions for total wager amount as defined in the present

application on page 13, lines 13-22 is reproduced below:

Total Wager Amount   For a progressive prize, **this is the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event**. The total wager amount must be of a value that will support all the criteria for the prize starting value, increment values, and any other values generated as a result of contribution percents applied against wagers. (Emphasis supplied.)

For a gaming device, this is the sum of all wagers made over the theoretical number of handle pulls, or plays of a game, between the prize award events. The total wager amount is computed by multiplying the wager amount times the odds of winning the prize.

Therefore, according to the definition, a prize's total wager amount, being a theoretical sum, is a prediction of the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event. Because prize award events are based on random events, such as random number generators, the actual sum of all wagers made for each prize event may be different from the total wager amount.

Unlike prior art methods, one preferred embodiment of the present invention can link devices adapted to accept wagers to a progressive prize regardless of the wager because the theoretical total wager amount is used with the wager to ensure that the odds of winning the prize are substantially proportionate to the size of the wager. Thus, using a theoretical total wager amount $10,000,000, a wager amount of $2.00 will result in the wager having odds of one in 5 million of being awarded the progressive prize, while a wager amount of $1.00 will result in the wager having odds of one in 10 million of being awarded the prize. In one preferred embodiment, a random number generator is used to generate a random number within the range of odds based on the size of the wager. If the randomly chosen number matches a predetermined prize-winning number, then the player is awarded the prize.[1]

Thus, one advantage achieved by a preferred embodiment is that any gaming device can be linked to and play for a progressive prize, regardless of the size of the wager, the denomination of the wager, or the probabilities associated with the game played on the gaming device. Conventional methods can only

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[1] Alternatively, a random number generator may be used to generate one or more random numbers based on the size of the wager within a range of numbers based on the total wager amount. If any of the randomly chosen numbers matches a predetermined prize-winning number, then the prize is awarded. Likewise, one or more predetermined prize-winning numbers based on the size of a wager may be compared to a randomly chosen number from within a range of numbers based on the total wager amount. If the randomly chosen number matches any of the predetermined prize-winning numbers, then the prize is awarded.

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link a gaming device to a progressive prize if the gaming device has a wager and odds combination that match a predetermined wager and odds combination for the progressive prize.

    2.   Independent Claim 1

        a.   Determining a total wager amount

The examiner asserts that Pease discloses determining a total wager amount at col. 5, lines 16-24 and col. 4, lines 66-67. It is helpful to view those passages from Pease in context. The referenced passages of Pease are bolded below along with the intervening portion, col. 5, lines 1-15,[2] for convenience:

> **As one example, it is assumed that a portion (e.g. 0.15%) of the wagers placed on the gaming devices 108a, 108b, 108c are to be** contributed toward the jackpot, and that a casino will receive one chance at the jackpot for every minimum contribution, e.g. for each $4,000 contributed to the jackpot. Assume further, that there are five casinos in the system, each of which does sufficient volume to contribute $20,000 per day towards the jackpot. Thus, in this example, the total jackpot will accumulate at an average rate of about $100,000 per day. In this situation, each casino will receive approximately 5 chances at the jackpot each day. That is, considering all five connected casinos there will be a total of 25 chances at the jackpot per day. If it is assumed that the odds of winning a jackpot, for any chance, are set at one in 2,500, there will, on the average, be a prize awarded once every 10 days, and the average size of that prize will be $1,000,000. Other examples will occur to those of skill in the art once the present disclosure is understood.

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[2] The intervening passage (col. 5, lines 1-15) from Pease quoted above was relied upon by the examiner on page 4 of the office action mailed on June 5, 2002 (Paper No. 8) in parent application S.N. 09/875,467 for the proposition that Pease "discloses computing the odds of a prize award event using the prize's total wager amount and a player's wager amount, the odds has a range of numbers." Similarly, the June 5, 2002 office action relies in part on Pease, col. 5., lines 4-16, to assert that Pease "discloses a central system that is capable of performing the function of the claimed central system and free play apparatus." Id., at p. 5. The June 5, 2002 office action also asserts that "Pease discloses computing the odds of winning the progressive prize by dividing the total wager amount by and amount of the wager (col. 5, lines 4-9)." Id.

> It is contemplated that when the central system has determined that the prize has been won, the casino whose "chance" resulted in the win, will award the entire prize to one player (selected, e.g. as described below). However, it is also possible to provide a system in which, once there has been an award of a prize, the casino may divide the winnings among two or more randomly selected players, such as by providing a first prize, second prize, third prize, etc.

First, neither the cited passages nor the intervening passages disclose a determining a "total wager amount" as that phrase is defined in the present application. Namely, the fact that "a portion (e.g. 0.15%) of wagers placed on the gaming devices . . . are to be contributed toward the jackpot" (Pease) does not imply that there is a "theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event" (App., page 13, lines 13-22).

Similarly, the cited passage from Pease that "when the central system has determined that the prize has been won, the casino whose 'chance' resulted in the win, will award the entire prize to one player" or that "the casino may divide the winnings among two or more randomly selected players" does not imply that there is a "theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event" (App., page 13, lines 13-22), namely, a total wager amount.

Rather, the "portion (e.g. 0.15%) of the wagers placed on the gaming devices . . . contributed toward the jackpot" in Pease is a factual, concrete, and actual amount, and therefore not the same as the total wager amount being claimed in claim 1, which is a theoretical amount.

This is confirmed by the intervening passage from Pease (col. 5, lines 11-14) wherein it states "if it is <u>assumed</u> that the odds of winning a jackpot, for any chance, are set at one in 2,500, there will, on the average, be a prize awarded once every 10 days, and the average size of that prize will be $1,000,000." Namely, Pease assumes the odds of winning a jackpot. Pease does not predetermine a specific total wager amount.

Because Pease does not teach or suggest the total wager amount, it does not render the present invention obvious.

     b. <u>Linking the device to the prize based on total wager</u>

        <u>amount</u>

Elements (F) and (G) of claim 1, as amended, state "(F) said central system being adapted to link said prize to said device based on a substantial equivalence of said total wager amount; (G) said central system being adapted to enable said device linked to said prize adapted to being awarded to said participant to participate for winning said prize adapted to being awarded to said participant". As noted above, the examiner asserts that Pease (col. 4, lines 40-43 and 66-67; and col. 5, lines 1-24) discloses a central system that links the device to the prize based on the total wager amount of each entity and enables the device to participate for winning the prize. The referenced passages of Pease are set forth below for convenience:

> There are many ways in which a plurality of gaming devices can be grouped together, so as to provide such grouping of gaming devices with chances at the prize.
>
>   * * *
>
>   As one example, it is assumed that a portion (e.g. 0.15%) of the wagers placed on the gaming devices 108a, 108b, 108c are to be contributed toward the jackpot, and that a casino will receive one chance at the jackpot for every minimum contribution, e.g. for each $4,000 contributed to the jackpot. Assume further, that there are five casinos in the system, each of which does sufficient volume to contribute $20,000 per day towards the jackpot. Thus, in this example, the total jackpot will accumulate at an average rate of about $100,000 per day. In this situation, each casino will receive approximately 5 chances at the jackpot each day. That is, considering all five connected casinos there will be a total of 25 chances at the jackpot per day. If it is assumed that the odds of winning a jackpot, for any chance, are set at one in 2,500, there will, on the average, be a prize awarded once every 10 days, and the average size of that prize will be $1,000,000. Other examples will occur to those of skill in the art once the present disclosure is understood.
>
>   It is contemplated that when the central system has determined that the prize has been won, the casino whose "chance"

resulted in the win, will award the entire prize to one player (selected, e.g. as described below). However, it is also possible to provide a system in which, once there has been an award of a prize, the casino may divide the winnings among two or more randomly selected players, such as by providing a first prize, second prize, third prize, etc.

As explained above, Pease does not disclose a "total wager amount" as that phrase is defined in the application. Therefore, the central system in Pease cannot link the prize to a device based on a substantial equivalence of the total wager amount.   See (B.2.a) above.

       c.   Odds adapted to the determination of the total wager amount

The examiner acknowledges that Pease does not explicitly disclose that the device includes a payline or that the odds are adapted to the determination of the total wager amount. 7/13/04 Office Action, p. 4. Indeed, there is no suggestion, teaching or motivation in Pease to provide a total wager amount and therefore can be no suggestion, teaching or motivation in Pease that the odds of a payline could be adapted to a total wager amount.

Further, the odds disclosed in Pease do not include a range of numbers. Because the odds disclosed in Pease do not include any range of numbers, Pease cold not possibly have the ability to generate any random numbers within the range of numbers. Consequently, Pease could not possibly generate a prize award event when a generated random number is equal to the prize winning number.

In fact, Pease teaches away from a system wherein, when a progressive prize is awarded, the prize is directly awarded by the system to an individual gaming device. Pease, col. 1, lines 23-29. Pease teaches that such a system, "from a practical point of view, place[s] limits on the size of the progressive system." Id. Instead, Pease teaches a tiered system wherein a centralized progressive jackpot is awarded to a tier above the gaming device level, such as to one of a

number of casinos that, in turn, awards the jackpot to participants without regard to odds based on a theoretical total wager amount. See, e.g., Pease, col. 1, line 65 – col. 2, line 15; col. 4, line 33 – col. 5, line 24.

Even though there is no suggestion, teaching or motivation to combine Pease in view of Baerlocher, the examiner asserts that Baerlocher, col. 4, lines 14-18 and 46-49, fills the void of Pease by disclosing a slot machine including pay lines wherein the odds are adapted to the determination of the total wager amount. 7/13/04 Office Action, p. 4. The examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the reel slot machine of Baerlocher to the gaming system of Pease in order to allow the participant to play a reel fortune game.

For convenience, the passages relied on by the examiner from Baerlocher are set forth below:

> including simulated slot machine reels 226a, 226b, 226c and pay line indicators 228a, 228b, 228c, 228d, 228e. Each simulated reel region displays various indicia, such as the types of fruit, bell, bar and number symbols commonly found in electronic slot machines. In addition, indicia may . . .
>
> * * *
>
> If the slot machine portion 224 shows a winning combination, such as three bells aligned along one of the pay lines 228 (or other combinations defined as winning combinations 116), the computer will determine 118 whether any . . .

Baerlocher, col. 4, lines 14-18 and 46-49.

First, assuming there is some suggestion, teaching or motivation to combine Pease in view of Baerlocher (and there is not), applicant submits that there is nothing in these passages from Baerlocher, or any other passage of Baerlocher,[3] that disclose a slot machine including pay lines wherein the odds are adapted to the determination of a theoretical total wager amount.

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[3]   In the office action mailed on June 5, 2002 (Paper No. 8), p. 6, in parent application S.N. 09/875,467, the examiner cited Baerlocher, col. 9, lines 13-42, for the proposition that Baerlocher discloses computing the odds of generating a

Second, the odds (e.g., 1:8,000,000) of winning the jackpot prize are set in Baerlocher at the individual machine level. With the tier system of Pease and using the example of Pease (col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 16), a participant supposedly hitting a payline with 1:8,000,000 odds of winning on a Baerlocher machine in a participating casino may not really be able to win the prize because the casino may not have reached its threshold amount to earn a chance to win the prize. In the Pease example, even if the threshold is reached and a chance to win is awarded to the casino, the odds of winning the prize are still only 1:2,500. Namely, the person hitting the payline with 1:8,000,000 odds will not likely win the prize in any event. Further, for the player to win the jackpot prize, the casino where the player who achieved the 1:3,200 payline must have an immediate opportunity to play the 1:2,500 chance of winning the jackpot prize. However, there may very well be a significant, unworkable and unacceptable time lag between the time the player wins the 1:3,200 payline and the time the casino reaches its threshold amount to earn a chance to win the jackpot prize.

Combining Pease in view of Baerlocher is unworkable for another reason. One skilled in the art will recognize the participating jackpot line in the Baerlocher machine odds can adjusted to 1:3,200 (i.e., 3,200 (Baerlocher) x 2,500 (Pease) = 8,000,000). However, casinos' chances of winning the jackpot prize in Pease are resolved sequentially. Namely, one qualifying casino's 1:2,500 chance to win the jackpot prize must be resolved before the next qualifying casino's chance is resolved. Assuming a casino has reached its threshold amount to have a chance at winning the jackpot prize, that casino cannot have its opportunity left open indefinitely while waiting for a player to achieve the 1:3,200 payline on a Baerlocher machine because other casinos will be reaching over time their respective threshold amounts to have a chance at winning the jackpot prize. The

prize award. None of those methods involve either a total wager amount or the wager in computing the odds.

time to resolve the queue of casinos with their chance at winning the jackpot prize would quickly build-up to an intolerable, unworkable level.

In short, even if there is some suggestion, teaching or motivation to combine Pease in view of Baerlocher (and there is not), even if Pease disclosed a total wager amount (and it does not), and even if Baerlocher disclosed a slot machine wherein the odds are adapted to the determination of the total wager amount (and it does not), the combined teachings of the patents would logically lead one skilled in the art to conclude that Pease could not be combined with Baerlocher into a workable progressive gaming system. Pease in view of Baerlocher does not render claim 1 obvious.

C. Dependent Claim 2

As to claim 2, the examiner asserts that Pease, col. 4, lines 66 - col. 5, line 1, discloses summing all the wagers to make a prize event. However, claim 2 does not claim summing all actual wagers made for the prize event. Claim 2 claims the system of claim 1 "wherein the total wager amount . . . is the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each said prize event." (Emphasis supplied.) Also, as explained above, Pease does not disclose a "total wager amount" as that phrase is defined in the application. Similarly, Pease does not and cannot disclose a total wager amount that is the theoretical sum of all wagers made for each prize award event. See (B.2.a) above. Therefore, Pease does not render claim 2 obvious.

D. Dependent Claims 3 and 4

As to claims 3 and 4, the examiner refers to the examiner's discussion of claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3 and 4 are not obvious for the same reasons that claim 1 is not obvious as a result of Pease in view of Baerlocher as discussed above.

E. Dependent Claims 5 and 6

As to claims 5 and 6, the examiner asserts that Pease, col. 5, lines 4-9, discloses multiplying the wager with the odds of winning. It is helpful to view those passages from Pease in context. The referenced passage of Pease is bolded below along with the preceding portion, col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 3, for convenience: Pease, col. 5, lines 4-9 is set forth below for convenience:

> As one example, it is assumed that a portion (e.g. 0.15%) of the wagers placed on the gaming devices 108a, 108b, 108c are to be contributed toward the jackpot, and that a casino will receive one chance at the jackpot for every minimum contribution, e.g. for each $4,000 contributed to the jackpot. **Assume further, that there are five casinos in the system, each of which does sufficient volume to contribute $20,000 per day towards the jackpot. Thus, in this example, the total jackpot will accumulate at an average rate of about $100,000 per day. In this situation, each casino will receive approximately 5 chances at the jackpot each day.**

First, Claims 5 and 6 are not obvious for the same reasons that claim 1 is not obvious as a result of Pease in view of Baerlocher as discussed above.

Second, the passage from Pease cited by the examiner does not disclose multiplying the wager with the odds of winning. Rather, in context with the preceding portion of Pease quoted above, this passage from Pease discloses by implication multiplying the contribution percentage by the actual amount wagered to determine actual contribution amounts to the jackpot. The odds of winning play no part in the cited implied calculation. Therefore claim 5 is not obvious as a result of Pease.

Third, because the passage from Pease cited by the examiner does not disclose multiplying the wager with the odds of winning to obtain a total wager amount (see preceding paragraph), it would also not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to multiply an exchange rate between a currency of a wager and a currency of a prize times the product obtained by multiplying the value of a wager times the odds of winning. Therefore claim 6 is not obvious as a result of Pease.

Fourth, claim 6 is directed to a system that could reach across sovereign boundaries to countries with different currencies. Applicant respectfully disagrees that it would have been obvious at the time of the invention to one skilled in the art to multiply an exchange rate between a currency of a wager and a currency of a prize times the product obtained by multiplying the value of a wager times the odds of winning to obtain a total wager amount for an international progressive prize gaming system. Therefore claim 6 is not obvious as a result of Pease.

F.   Independent Claim 7

Claim 7 is a method claim. Each of steps (A) and (B) require determining a total wager amount. Step (C) links a prize and a device "if the prize's total wager amount is substantially equal to the device's total wager amount."

As to claim 7, the examiner refers to the examiner's discussion of claim 1. Accordingly, claim 7 is not obvious for the same reasons that claim 1 is not obvious as a result of Pease in view of Baerlocher as discussed above.

The examiner further asserts that Pease, col. 5, lines 3-52, discloses linking the prize to the device if the prize's total wager amount is equal to the device's total wager amount. Pease, col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 24 have already been quoted above at p. 9 for convenience. Pease, col. 5, lines 25-52 are quoted below for convenience:

> In the embodiment of FIG. 1, the gaming devices 108a, 108b, 108c in a casino (or other grouping) are coupled to a computer network, such as a token ring network 118, providing information to a plurality of computers such as PC-type computers, for various purposes, such as security 120, jackpot/fill booth operation 122, scale interface 124, camera interface 126, club booth 128, management 130, and transaction processing 132. In general, the hardware depicted in the casino 102 can be that known in the past for use in many types of player tracking systems.
>
> The hardware of the progressive system 104, and particularly the manner in which it is connected with the casino system 102, and the central computer system 106, and the manner

> in which it operates or is controlled, e.g., by software, is believed to be different from previous systems. In one embodiment, the progressive system includes an electronic processor such as a computer 138, and a data communications system such as modems 142a, 142b, e.g., for providing communication with the central computer system 106. The processor 138 receives information from the casino system, e.g., over a token ring connection 144, and/or a communications or data tap, such as an RS 232 connection 146. The information received from the casino system 102 may include information regarding which gaming devices 108 are being played, the identity of players at various gaming devices, **the amount wagered at the various coupled gaming devices in the casino,** and the like. The processor 138 also provides information to the casino sys-

(Emphasis supplied.)

As discussed above (II.B.2.a.), Pease, col. 4, line 66 – col. 5, line 24 does not disclose a total wager amount as defined in the application. The only reference to wager amounts in Pease, col. 5, lines 25-52, is at line 50 and is highlighted above.

First, applicant submits that "the amount wagered at the various coupled gaming devices in the casino" in Pease, line 50, are actual, concrete amounts wagered on individual gaming devices – not theoretical amounts relating to the total wager amount.

Second, there is no disclosure in Pease that the actual amounts wagered on individual devices are aggregated for any purpose, including determining the total actual amount wagered.

Third, in any event, total actual amount wagered has already be shown to not be the same thing as "total wager amount" as defined in the application. Pease therefore does not disclose total wager amount and therefore cannot disclose any linking on the basis of total wager amount.

Fourth, even if "total wager amount" as defined in the application is described in Pease (and it is not), nothing in the cited passages from Pease discloses linking the prize and individual devices on the basis of total wager amount. At most, Pease, particularly at col. 5, lines 25-52, simply describes an

architecture for information flow in the Pease invention. It discloses nothing on actually linking a prize to a device if the prize's total wager amount is substantially equal to the device's total wager amount. See also, II.B.2.b above.

Therefore, claim 7 is not obvious as a result of Pease in view of Baerlocher.
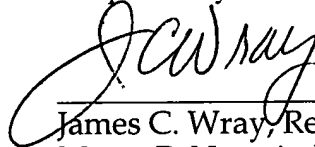
G.   Claims 8-16

As to claims 8-16, the examiner refers to the examiner's discussion of claims 2 and 5-7. Accordingly, claims 8-16 are not obvious for the same reasons that claims 2 and 5-7 are not obvious as a result of Pease in view of Baerlocher as discussed above.

III.   Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicant's attorney, James C. Wray, at 703-442-4800.

Respectfully,

James C. Wray, Reg. No. 22,693
Meera P. Narasimhan, Reg. No. 40,252
1493 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite # 300
McLean, VA 22101
Tel: 703-442-4800
Fax: 703-448-7397

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